



## WASHBURN RANGER DISTRICT TRAIL & RECREATION SITE REPORT (07/28/2016)

### Background

On the morning of July 21, 2016 there was a significant storm with high winds that pushed across portions of the Washburn Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest north of US HWY 2 in the Bayfield County area. U.S. Forest Service personnel made tremendous progress and many roads north of US HWY 2 are open for public access across the Washburn Ranger District. Assessments of the damage on the Forest Service and gas tax roads on the Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) and all motorized and non-motorized trails will be ongoing over the next week or more. The Forest has issued an emergency closure order for the Birch Grove Campground and other specific roads, trails, and other recreation sites that sustained heavy damage where there will need a significant amount of work to restore these areas for the public to access and enjoy. As roads or trails are cleared, the closure order and map will be updated and posted on our Forest's website. For information and updated maps, please visit our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/) and click on Thunderstorms Damage Washburn Ranger District. You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CNNF002> or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CNNF002>.

The network of Forest Service roads impacted by the July 11 thunderstorm and flash flooding on the Great Divide and Washburn Ranger Districts have been assessed and no additional damage has been reported. For the most current information please visit our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/) and click on Flash Flooding Affects Forest. You may also call the Great Divide Ranger District at 715-264-2511.

### Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails Status

The Drummond Connector Trail (Trail 63) from the Town of Drummond to Arnie Carlson Road has been closed. The eastern portion of the trail is completely washed out and impassable.

A majority of the ATV trails are closed north of US HWY 2. The trails that are closed are as follows:

- Trail 31 (Iron River Trail) from Long Lake Road east to FR 251.
- Trail 31/35 (Valhalla Trail- west side) from FR 251 north across CTY HWY C north across Trail 31 (Bayfield Connector) to FR 256.
- Trail 33 (Valhalla Trail- east side) from FR 251 north through the Valhalla Recreation Area across CTY HWY C to the junction with Trail 31 (Bayfield Connector).
- Trail 13 from FR 697 into the Valhalla Recreation Area. (The Valhalla Recreation Area parking areas are closed to public use)
- Trail 40 from FR 236 to the junction of Trail 31 (Valhalla Trail-west side).
- Trail 63 (Moquah Spur) from Sand Forty Road north past FR 245 to the junction of Trail 31 (Iron River Trail).
- Wolf Trail (south of US HWY 2) from US HWY 2 south to FR 425.

Trails that were not impacted by the July 21<sup>st</sup> storm or the July 11<sup>th</sup> flooding that remain open are:

- Trail 3/43 (Battleaxe Trail) from Silbersack Road north up through the Wally Polk Trail on Bayfield County lands.
- Trail 66 (Flagg Road Connector Trail) from junction of the Battleaxe to Flagg Road (which is a route).
- Trail 40 (Lenawee Trail) from the junction of Trail 43 & Wally Polk Trail east to FR 236. FR 236 is open to ATV traffic.
- Trail 31 (Buckskin Trail)
- Trail 7/31 (Bear Paw) and Trail 31 (Togatic Trail)
- Horse Pasture Grade Connector Trail north of Trail 7 (Bear Paw Trail)

The attached map displays the temporary re-routes to get riders to surrounding areas and businesses are on Forest Service and open gas tax roads. It has been posted on our Forest website and the Bayfield County website. Directional signs are in place at key junctions as of today. As we complete assessments and get trails back open, the trail re-route and closure order map will be updated and posted on both of these websites. Please check these websites when planning your riding route.

The Valkyrie and Teuton Ski Trails within the Valhalla Recreation Area and the Horseshoe Lake Horse Trails were also impacted by the storm. These trails and the trailheads are closed as we assess the level of damage.

### Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

North of US HWY 2, Long Lake Day Use Area is the only recreation site that is open for public use at this time. Due to the severity of the damage to Birch Grove Campground, access to this site is closed until further notice. To ensure public safety, a gate has been installed at each end of FR 435 to close all access into site and the trails that are in the area. Please **do not** go around the gates with any type of motorized vehicles or walk on them to get into this area to look at the damage. It is extremely dangerous as trees are still coming down and it is not safe to be anywhere in the area due to the position of already snapped, down, and damaged trees. Pictures of the damage across the Washburn Ranger District are being posted on our website and Facebook page.

If you have any other questions regarding the listed recreation sites or trails, please contact the Washburn Ranger District office at (715) 373-2667. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the recovery efforts.